



## **STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Report Date: January 13, 2015  
Report Submitted By: Patrick S. Babineau, MRP  
Senior Long Range Planner  
Project Name: Public Hearing on the Proposed Draft Recreational  
Marijuana Amendment to Lewis County Code Title 17.

### **A. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on recreational marijuana land use on January 13, 2015 to get public testimony on the proposed amendment to Lewis County Code Title 17.

### **B. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) asked the Lewis County Planning Commissioners to develop draft land use regulations governing the production, processing and retailing of recreational marijuana in compliance with applicable law, including but not limited to chapter 5.20 of the Lewis County Code.

### **C. HISTORY/BACKGROUND**

The Planning Commission held six workshops on the land use regulations dealing with the production, processing and retail selling of recreational marijuana at its Planning Commission meetings on July 8, 2014, July 29, 2014, September 23, 2014, October 28, 2014, November 25, 2014 and December 9, 2014.

The Planning Commissioners used these six workshops to deliberate about what, if any, land use regulations would be appropriate for Lewis County's unincorporated areas. At each of these Planning Commission workshops, the public was invited to comment about the proposed code amendment.

The Planning Commission asked the planning staff to develop draft land use regulations for a possible code amendment. The draft land use regulations were developed using the input it received from the deliberations of the Planning Commissioners and the comments from the public during the six (above-referenced) Planning Commission workshops.

At its December 9, 2014 workshop, the Planning Commission approved moving the draft code amendment language, Exhibit 1 below, to its January 13, 2015 meeting for a public hearing to get testimony from the public on the suggested code amendment language. The Planning Commission also asked the planning staff to get feedback from pertinent Lewis County departments about possible impacts to these county departments if the marijuana code amendment language is approved by the BOCC.

#### **D. PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

A notice of public hearing was published on December 23, 2014 in The Chronicle, the newspaper of record for Lewis County, Exhibit 2. The proposed code amendment is available for review at Lewis County Community Development at 2025 NE Kresky Ave., Chehalis, WA or on line at [www.lewiscountywa.gov](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov), and at Timberland Regional libraries located at: Chehalis, Centralia, Salkum, Randle, Packwood, and Winlock as well as the Lewis County Senior Centers located at: Morton, Toledo, Twin Cities (Chehalis), Packwood, and Winlock in accordance with Lewis County Code Chapter 17.12. The affidavit of mailing to these locations is found in Exhibit 3.

#### **E. STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA)**

A SEPA Threshold Determination will be issued prior to the public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners.

#### **F. CONCLUSIONS**

The Planning Commission scheduled its January 13, 2015 meeting to hold a public hearing to get testimony from the public about the proposed marijuana land use code language. Using this public testimony and its prior deliberations, the Planning Commission will decide what recommendation it will make concerning the code amendment language in its Letter of Transmittal to the BOCC.

**G. EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit 1      Proposed Draft Recreational Marijuana Amendment to Lewis County  
Code Title 17
- Exhibit 2      Notice of Public Hearing
- Exhibit 3      Affidavit of Mailing to Libraries and Senior Centers